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Essay "More Music in Man", n.d.

Ralph B. LeCocq

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More Music in Man.

By R. P. McLoon,
Student in Harrison
Academy

As we lift ^{up} our eyes (upward) and see all the heavenly bodies, the sun, ^{and} moon and stars, & together with (the ^{omit} other) planets, and how each revolution of the earth around the sun brings us the succeeding years, and each revolution of the earth on its axis brings us the succeeding days, year after year and day after day, always the same; as we cast our glance around us on this earth below, and see everywhere the great coöperations of the laws of nature, we cannot help but note the marvellous harmony which our Creator has established in our world, as well as in other worlds of which we know yet little. As we see and think about this greater harmony between these established laws, we come slowly to the lesser, the human element of harmony - of music which has been developed ~~through~~ from time to time ~~through~~ all the past ages by the human mind.

Music itself is part of man's nature. It is simply the product of a happy mind and pleasant feelings.

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2.

With the great developement of music in our time we are perhaps ^{inclined} ~~in danger~~ to think that music is the fruit of ~~our~~ ^{civilization} modern time^s only. No, already ~~in the time of Cain's~~ ^{descendants} we read that they invented musical instruments. Through all ages music has been the "sweet companion of labor". The bride has gone to her marriage, the laborer to his work, and men to their last long rest, each with appropriate music.

The first means for producing music has been the human ^{voice}. Later on in Grecian times, patriotic poems were sung in battle. What an effect this must have created, when sweet strains of music came, not from ^{the} brass instruments of a military band as in our modern time, but from a thousand throats - the human voice ^{that divine and simple} ~~the greatest of~~ ^{all} ~~harp of but two strings~~ ^{of music}. In the voice is life; in the voice can be thrown the feelings of the soul of joy, sadness, patriotism, mirth, or anger. In ancient times melody, or, as we more commonly call it, the soprano, which is the principal part to cause physical pleasure, was the only

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3.

part used. But with the development of civilization and the human mind came harmony, until today we have a system of music almost complete as far as human hands can ^{fashion} bring it.

Music founded on strict mathematical ratios, is at once one of the most exact sciences, and the ^{most} indefinite of the arts. It is not too much to say that the laws of music govern the universe. Music is the lowest round of a ladder which reaches to the ultimate facts of existence, for these, so far as ^{has been discovered} (we know) are composed of varying rates of vibration. As we know ^(true "as we know") sound produces waves in the air. So also do heat and light, only at a much higher rate. Thus with increasing rapidity sound passes into ~~heat~~, then into light, and electricity. Science has even turned to music for aid. The well known phenomenon of sympathetic vibration of which the effect of the loud pedal of the piano is perhaps the best example, has been employed by Marconi in his wireless telegraphic instruments. In order to secure secrecy of messages

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each transmitter and its corresponding receiver is tuned to the same rate of vibration.

As light and heat produce vibrations at a ~~much~~ ^{thus} higher rate than sound, ~~so~~ also there are sounds which produce waves in the air at such a high rate of vibration that we cannot hear them, which fail to effect the nerves in our ear. He believe that the music which came to John the Evangelist in his revelation was just of this nature. So the music of heaven, although far exalted above our earthly music, is not entirely new, but simply a higher state of our music founded on the same basis.

Music then comprises science, art, and nature. Although these overlap somewhat, they can be sufficiently distinguished. Science is used by the composer when he writes on paper his feelings and inspirations, obtained from nature. Art when it is played or sung. The perfection of art is reached when the player or singer interprets, or ^{draws forth} ~~gets out~~ all the ~~feelings~~ ^{pathos and sympathies} which the composer has put into it.

Now to acquire this art means years of hard and

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5.

patient work. Some might ask, "What is the use to devote so much time to something which is a mere accomplishment." But it is seen in our time that it is more than an accomplishment. By it we acquire a power, the principal object for which all education strives, beyond many of our fellow-men. It will leave many valuable results on our character. An accomplished musician will have a mind of the most mercurial alertness, and a heart sensitive to emotions of all known varieties, and ^{emotions} feelings ready to rush into any channel.

^{Still} But we know it is not within the power of all to devote their time or part of their time to music. ^{However} But ^{yet} those who have some opportunity and talent however small it may be should grasp it with an iron grip. Mountains of discouragement will come to him who pursues this course, and times when he almost gives it up as impossible, but let these be written before your eyes in large characters of gold the words, "Come what may, I will succeed." And the one who does succeed will have fronted